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April 9, 2004

04/12/04

BOX: NON-FEE AMENDMENT  
Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR § 1.10

Re: Housekeeping Amendment in the merged cases:

Reissue Application No.:	)	Group Art Unit: 2177
<u>09/512,592</u>	)	
United States Patent No.:	)	Examiner: J. Homere
<u>5,806,063</u>	)	
Issued: September 8, 1998	)	
Applicant:	)	
<u>Dickens-Soeder2000,LLC</u>	)	
Reexamination Proceeding:	)	
<u>90/005,592</u>	)	
<u>Filed: December 21, 1999</u>	)	
Reexamination Proceeding:	)	
<u>90/005,628</u>	)	
<u>Filed: February 2, 2000</u>	)	
Reexamination Proceeding:	)	
<u>90/005,727</u>	)	
<u>Filed: May 16, 2000</u>	)	
Reexamination Proceeding	)	
<u>90/006,541</u>	)	
<u>Filed: February 2, 2003</u>	)	

Enclosed with this Certificate of Mailing is:  
Housekeeping Amendment Cover Letter  
Housekeeping Amendment of 34 pages  
Certificate of Service By Mail  
Return Receipt Postcard

Bruce Dickens

Bruce Dickens  
Express Mail No.

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE BY MAIL

April 9, 2004

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<u>Filed: May 16, 2000</u>	)	
Reexamination Proceeding	)	
90/0006,541	)	
<u>Filed February 7, 2003</u>	)	

I hereby certify that I have served the following on the below listed counsel of record by placing same in a first class mail envelope addressed to the below listed addresses with appropriate postage affixed and deposited with the United States Post Office:

Housekeeping amendment Cover Letter

Housekeeping Amendment of 34 pages

Certificate of Mailing

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Bruce Dickens

Via: Express Mail

April 9, 2004  
Box: Non-Fee Amendment  
Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Commissioner:

Enclosed is a **Housekeeping Amendment** in the merged cases:

<b>Reissue Application No.:</b>	)	<b>Group Art Unit:</b> 2177
<b>09/512,592</b>	)	
<b>United States Patent No.:</b>	)	<b>Examiner:</b> J. Homere
<b>5,806,063</b>	)	
<b>Issued: September 8, 1998</b>	)	
<b>Applicant:</b>	)	
<b><u>Dickens-Soeder2000,LLC</u></b>	)	
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<b>Reexamination Proceeding:</b>	)	
<b>90/005,727</b>	)	
<b><u>Filed: May 16, 2000</u></b>	)	
<b>Reexamination Proceeding</b>	)	
<b>90/006,541</b>	)	
<b><u>Filed February 2, 2003</u></b>	)	

This Amendment consists of:

Housekeeping Amendment of 34 pages  
Certificate of Mailing  
Certificate of Service By Mail  
Return Receipt Postcard

Respectfully submitted,

*Bruce Dickens*  
Bruce Dickens  
3892 Cedron Street  
Irvine, CA 92606

Enclosures

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT  
AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

5 Reissue Application No.: )  
09/512,592 )  
United States Patent No.: ) ) Group Art Unit: 2177  
5,806,063 )  
Issued: September 8, 1998 ) ) Examiner: J. Homere  
10 Applicant: )  
Dickens-Soeder2000,LLC )  
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 )  
20 Reexamination Proceeding: )  
90/005,727 )  
Filed: May 16, 2000 )  
 )  
25 Reexamination Proceeding )  
90/006,541 )  
Filed on February 7, 2003 )

## **HOUSE KEEPING AMENDMENT**

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

30 Dear Sir:

Pursuant to the DECISION, SUA SPONTE, TO MERGE

REEXAMINATION AND REISSUE PROCEEDINGS, dated March 12, 2004

(“the Decision”), the Applicant in the above referenced Reissue Application and

35 Patent Owner in the above referenced Reexamination Proceedings, which were merged by the Decision, hereby submits the House Keeping Amendment called for in the Decision and 37 C.F.R. §1.565(d). This Amendment will serve to place all claims currently in the above referenced Reissue Application in the merged Reexamination Proceeding files. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the

Examiner add the following new claims, the same new claims as were added in the Reissue application, to the above referenced Reexamination Proceeding files and enter the amendment to claim 11 and to the Abstract and the Specification. As required by the decision, this identical Amendment is submitted separately in each 5 of the above referenced files, pursuant to the Decision, though these claims are already a part of the above referenced Reissus Application and '5,592, '5,628 and '5,727 Reexamination Proceedings.

Please amend the application as follows:

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

**Abstract**

Dates stored in symbolic form in a database are reformatted to permit easy  
 5 manipulation and sorting of date-related information. Each date in M<sub>1</sub>M<sub>2</sub>, D<sub>1</sub>D<sub>2</sub>,  
 and Y<sub>1</sub>Y<sub>2</sub> format is converted to C<sub>1</sub>C<sub>2</sub>, Y<sub>1</sub>Y<sub>2</sub>, M<sub>1</sub>M<sub>2</sub>, and D<sub>1</sub>D<sub>2</sub> format. To  
 accomplish the conversion, a 10-decade window starting on Y<sub>A</sub>Y<sub>B</sub> is defined that  
 encompasses all dates in the database. The value of C<sub>1</sub>C<sub>2</sub> is determined by the  
 relative values of Y<sub>1</sub>Y<sub>2</sub> and Y<sub>A</sub>Y<sub>B</sub>. The reformatted date information is particularly  
 10 useful when the reformatting is in C<sub>1</sub>C<sub>2</sub>Y<sub>1</sub>Y<sub>2</sub>M<sub>1</sub>M<sub>2</sub>D<sub>1</sub>D<sub>2</sub> format, because sorting by  
 date is accomplished using a pure numerical-value sort.

Please amend the Specification by adding the following to the end of the  
 Specification:

**Exhibit A**

```

15 !      --Century Conversion --
!      Bruce Dickens      Apr 04, 1996
!
!
10   open structure toos:name 'otms_src_dir:tools'
20   open #2 : name 'last_inv.dat', access output
      print " Tools 'Last Inventory Data Format' Check for 1996 Inventory"
      print "Tool No      "; " Model No      "; " LAST_INV "; "LAST INV
      "
      print "=====      "; " =====      "; " =====      "; " =====
25   print "Extract Data:"
      print #2: "ToolNo      "; " Model No      "; " LAST_INV      ";
      "LAST_INV"
      print #2: "=====      "; " =====      "; " =====      ";
      "====="
30   print #2: "Extract Data"

```

```

20      extract structure tools

        yy$ = lpad$ (element$ (tools (last_inv),3,"/"), 2, "0")
        mm$ = lpad$ (element$ (tools (last_inv),1,"/"), 2, "0")
5       dd$ = lpad$ (element$ (tools (last_inv),2,"/"), 2, "0")
        cc$= yy$ + "/" + mm$ + dd$
        c1$ = change$ (cc$, '/', '')
        if c1$[1:2] , '50' then
            c$ = '20' + c1$
10      else
            c$= '19' + c1$
        end if
        !
        ! include c$ , '19960101'
        ! sort by tools(model)
15      sort by rpad$(c$,8, '0')
        !
        ! if c$[1:8] , '19960101' then
            print tools(toolno) ; tab (23); tools(model); &
            tab(35); tools(last_inv); tab(44); c$
            print #2: tools(toolno) ; tab (23); tools(model); &
20            tab(35); tools(last_inv); tab(44); c$
            if valid ( c1$, "digits" ) = 0 then
                print; tab(53); " Date format is not digits"
                print #2: ;tab(53); " Date format is not digits"
                end if
25      !
            if valid ( c1$, "minlength 6" ) = 0 then
                print; tab(50); " Date format is short"
                print #2: ;tab(50); " Date format is short"
                end if
                !
                if tools(last_inv) = "" then
30            print; tab(53); " Date format is blank"
            print #2: ;tab(53); " Date format is blank"

```

```

!
      end if

30   end extract

      print
      print "Sorted Data:"

5     print

40   for each tools

      c1$ + change$ (tools(last_inv), '/', '')

      print tools(toolno); tab (23); tools(model); &
      tab (35); tools(last_inv); tab(44); c$

10    if valid ( c1$, "digits" ) = 0 then
      print; tab(53); " Date format is not digits"
      print #2: ;tab(53); " Date format is not digits"
      end if

15    !
      if valid ( c1$, "minlength 6" ) = 0 then
      print; tab(53); " Date format is short"
      !
      print #2: ;tab(53); " Date format is short"
      !
      end if

```

Please amend the claims as follows:

20 1. (Original) A method of processing symbolic representations of dates stored in a database, comprising the steps of

25 providing a database with symbolic representations of dates stored therein according to a format wherein M<sub>1</sub> M<sub>2</sub> is the numerical month designator, D<sub>1</sub> D<sub>2</sub> is the numerical day designator, and Y<sub>1</sub> Y<sub>2</sub> is the numerical year designator, all of the symbolic representations of dates falling within a 10-decade period of time;

30 selecting a 10-decade window with a Y<sub>A</sub> Y<sub>B</sub> value for the first decade of the window, Y<sub>A</sub> Y<sub>B</sub> being no later than the earliest Y<sub>1</sub> Y<sub>2</sub> year designator in the database;

determining a century designator  $C_1 C_2$  for each symbolic representation of a date in the database,  $C_1 C_2$  having a first value if  $Y_1 Y_2$  is less than  $Y_A Y_B$  and having a second value if  $Y_1 Y_2$  is equal to or greater than  $Y_A Y_B$  ; and

5 reformatting the symbolic representation of the date with the values  $C_1 C_2$ ,  $Y_1$   $Y_2$ ,  $M_1 M_2$  , and  $D_1 D_2$  to facilitate further processing of the dates.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the 10-decade window includes the decade beginning in the year 2000.

10 3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the step of determining includes the step of

determining the first value as 20 and the second value as 19.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, including an additional step, after the step of reformatting, of

sorting the symbolic representations of dates.

15 5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of reformatting includes the step of

reformatting each symbolic representation of a date into the format  $C_1 C_2 Y_1 Y_2$   $M_1 M_2 D_1 D_2$ .

20 6. (Original) The method of claim 5, including an additional step, after the step of reformatting, of

sorting the symbolic representations of dates using a numerical-order sort.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of providing a database includes the step of

converting pre-existing date information having a different format into the format wherein  $M_1 M_2$  is the numerical month designator,  $D_1 D_2$  is the numerical day designator and  $Y_1 Y_2$  is the numerical year designator.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of selecting includes the step  
5 of

selecting  $Y_A Y_B$  such that  $Y_B$  is 0 (zero).

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, including an additional step, after the step of reformatting, of

10 storing the symbolic representation of dates and their associated information back into the database.

11. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 9, including the additional step, after the step of reformatting, of

manipulating information in the database utilizing the reformatted date information.

15

11. (Original) A method of processing dates in a database, comprising the steps of

providing a database with dates stored therein according to a format wherein  
16  $M_1 M_2$  is the numerical month designator,  $D_1 D_2$  is the numerical day designator, and  $Y_1 Y_2$  is the numerical year designator, all of dates falling  
20 within a 10-decade period of time which includes the decade beginning in the year 2000;

selecting a 10-decade window with a  $Y_A Y_B$  value for the first decade of the window,  $Y_A Y_B$  being no later than the earliest  $Y_1 Y_2$  year designator in the database;

determining a century designator C<sub>1</sub> C<sub>2</sub> for each date in the database, C<sub>1</sub> C<sub>2</sub> having a first value if Y<sub>1</sub> Y<sub>2</sub> is less than Y<sub>A</sub> Y<sub>B</sub> and having a second value if Y<sub>1</sub> Y<sub>2</sub> is equal to or greater than Y<sub>A</sub> Y<sub>B</sub> ;

5 reformatting each date in the form C<sub>1</sub> C<sub>2</sub> Y<sub>1</sub> Y<sub>2</sub> M<sub>1</sub> M<sub>2</sub> D<sub>1</sub> D<sub>2</sub> to facilitate further processing of the dates; and

sorting the dates in the form C<sub>1</sub> C<sub>2</sub> Y<sub>1</sub> Y<sub>2</sub> M<sub>1</sub> M<sub>2</sub> D<sub>1</sub> D<sub>2</sub>.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the step of providing a database includes the step of

10 converting pre-existing date information having a different format into the format wherein M<sub>1</sub> M<sub>2</sub> is the numerical month designator, D<sub>1</sub> D<sub>2</sub> is the numerical day designator and Y<sub>1</sub> Y<sub>2</sub> is the numerical year designator.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the step of selecting includes the step of

selecting Y<sub>A</sub> Y<sub>B</sub> such that Y<sub>B</sub> is 0 (zero).

15 14. (Original) The method of claim 11, including an additional step, after the step of sorting, of

storing the sorted dates and their associated information back into the database.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, including the additional step, after the step of sorting, of

20 manipulating information in the database having the reformatted date therein.

16. (Previously added) A method of processing symbolic representations of dates stored in a database, comprising the steps of:

providing a database with symbolic representations of dates stored therein according to a format wherein  $M_1 M_2$  is the numerical month designator,  $D_1 D_2$  is the numerical day designator, and  $Y_1 Y_2$  is the numerical year designator, all of the symbolic representations of dates falling within a 10-decade period of time;

5 selecting a window with a  $Y_A Y_B$  value for a pivot date of the window,  $Y_A Y_B$  being no later than the earliest  $Y_1 Y_2$  year designator in the database; determining a century designator  $C_1 C_2$  for each symbolic representation of a date in the database,  $C_1 C_2$  having a first value if  $Y_1 Y_2$  is less than  $Y_A Y_B$  and

10 having a second value if  $Y_1 Y_2$  is equal to or greater than  $Y_A Y_B$ ; and

reformatting the symbolic representation of each symbolic representation of a date in the database, without the addition of any new data field to the database, with the reformatted symbolic representation of each date in the database having the values  $C_1 C_2$ ,  $Y_1 Y_2$ ,  $M_1 M_2$ , and  $D_1 D_2$ , in order to facilitate

15 collectively further processing the reformatted symbolic representations of each of the symbolic representations of each of the dates.

17. (Previously added) The method of claim 16, wherein the window includes at least a portion of the decade beginning in the year 2000.

18. (Previously added) The method of claim 17, wherein the step of determining

20 includes the step of:

determining the first value as 20 and the second value as 19.

19. (Previously added) The method of claim 16, including an additional step, after the step of reformatting, of:

sorting the symbolic representations of dates.

20. (Previously added) The method of claim 16, wherein the step of reformatting includes the step of:

reformatting each symbolic representation of a date into the format C<sub>1</sub> C<sub>2</sub> Y<sub>1</sub> Y<sub>2</sub>  
5 M<sub>1</sub> M<sub>2</sub> D<sub>1</sub> D<sub>2</sub> separately from the symbolic representations in the database.

21. (Previously added) The method of claim 20, including an additional step, after the step of reformatting, of:

sorting the symbolic representations of dates using a numerical-order sort.

22. (Previously added) The method of claim 16, wherein the step of providing a  
10 database includes the step of:

converting pre-existing date information having a different format into the  
format wherein M<sub>1</sub> M<sub>2</sub> is the numerical month designator, D<sub>1</sub> D<sub>2</sub> is the  
numerical day designator and Y<sub>1</sub> Y<sub>2</sub> is the numerical year designator.

23. (Previously added) The method of claim 16, wherein the step of selecting  
15 includes the step of:

selecting Y<sub>A</sub> Y<sub>B</sub> such that Y<sub>B</sub> is 0 (zero).

24. (Previously added) The method of claim 16, including an additional step, after  
the step of reformatting, of:

storing the symbolic representation of dates and their associated information  
20 back into the database.

25. (Previously added) The method of claim 24, including the additional step, after  
the step of reformatting, of:

manipulating information in the database having the reformatted date information therein.

26. (Previously added) A method of processing dates in a database, comprising the steps of:

- 5        providing a database with dates stored therein according to a format wherein  $M_1 M_2$  is the numerical month designator,  $D_1 D_2$  is the numerical day designator, and  $Y_1 Y_2$  is the numerical year designator, all of the symbolic representations of dates falling within a 10-decade period of time;
- 10      selecting a window with a  $Y_A Y_B$  value for a pivot date of the window,  $Y_A Y_B$  being no later than the earliest  $Y_1 Y_2$  year designator in the database;
- 15      determining a century designator  $C_1 C_2$  for each date in the database,  $C_1 C_2$  having a first value if  $Y_1 Y_2$  is less than  $Y_A Y_B$  and having a second value if  $Y_1 Y_2$  is equal to or greater than  $Y_A Y_B$  ;
- 20      reformatting the symbolic representation of each symbolic representation of a date in the database, without the addition of any new data field to the database, with the reformatted symbolic representation of each date in the database having the values  $C_1 C_2$ ,  $Y_1 Y_2$ ,  $M_1 M_2$  , and  $D_1 D_2$ , in order to facilitate collectively further processing the reformatted symbolic representations of each of the symbolic representations of each of the dates; and

20      sorting the dates in the form  $C_1 C_2 Y_1 Y_2 M_1 M_2 D_1 D_2$ .

27. (Previously added) The method of claim 26, wherein the step of providing a database includes the step of:

converting pre-existing date information having a different format into the format wherein  $M_1 M_2$  is the numerical month designator,  $D_1 D_2$  is the numerical day designator and  $Y_1 Y_2$  is the numerical year designator.

28. (Previously added) The method of claim 26, wherein the step of selecting  
5 includes the step of:

selecting  $Y_A Y_B$  such that  $Y_B$  is 0 (zero).

29. (Previously added) The method of claim 26, including an additional step, after the step of sorting, of:

storing the sorted dates and their associated information back into the database.

10 30. (Previously added) The method of claim 29, including the additional step, after the step of sorting, of:

manipulating information in the database having the reformatted dates therein.

31. (Previously added) A method of processing symbolic representations of dates stored in a database, comprising the steps of:

15 providing a database with symbolic representations of dates stored therein according to a format wherein  $Y_1 Y_2$  is the numerical year designator;  
selecting a window with a  $Y_A Y_B$  value for the first decade of the window,  $Y_A$   $Y_B$  being no later than the earliest  $Y_1 Y_2$  year designator in the database;  
determining a century designator  $C_1 C_2$  for each symbolic representation of a  
20 date in the database,  $C_1 C_2$  having a first value if  $Y_1 Y_2$  is less than  $Y_A Y_B$  and having a second value if  $Y_1 Y_2$  is equal to or greater than  $Y_A Y_B$ ; and

reformatting the symbolic representation of each symbolic representation of a date in the database, without the addition of any new data field to the database, with the reformatted symbolic representation of each date in the database having the values  $C_1 C_2, Y_1 Y_2$ , in order to facilitate collectively further processing the reformatted symbolic representations of each of the symbolic representations of each of the dates.

5 32. (Previously added) A method of processing dates in a database, comprising the steps of:

providing a database with symbolic representations of dates stored therein according to a format wherein  $Y_1 Y_2$  is the numerical year designator;

10 selecting a window with a  $Y_A Y_B$  value for a pivot year of the window,  $Y_A Y_B$  being no later than the earliest  $Y_1 Y_2$  year designator in the database;

determining a century designator  $C_1 C_2$  for each symbolic representation of a date in the database,  $C_1 C_2$  having a first value if  $Y_1 Y_2$  is less than  $Y_A Y_B$  and

15 having a second value if  $Y_1 Y_2$  is equal to or greater than  $Y_A Y_B$ ;

reformatting the symbolic representation of each of the dates in the database, without the addition of any new data field to the database, with the reformatted symbolic representation of each date in the database having the values  $C_1 C_2, Y_1 Y_2$ , in order to facilitate collectively further processing the reformatted symbolic representations of each of the dates; and

20 sorting the dates in the form  $C_1 C_2 Y_1 Y_2$ .

33. (Previously added) A method of processing symbolic representations of dates stored in a database, comprising the steps of:

providing a database with symbolic representations of dates stored therein

according to a format wherein  $Y_1 Y_2$  is the numerical year designator;

5 selecting a window with a  $Y_A Y_B$  value for the first decade of the window,  $Y_A$   $Y_B$  being no later than the earliest  $Y_1 Y_2$  year designator in the database;

determining a century designator  $C_1 C_2$  for each symbolic representation of a date in the database,  $C_1 C_2$  having a first value if  $Y_1 Y_2$  is less than  $Y_A Y_B$  and having a second value if  $Y_1 Y_2$  is equal to or greater than  $Y_A Y_B$ ; and

10 reformatting the symbolic representation of each symbolic representation of a date in the database, without changing any of the symbolic representations of a date in the database during the reformatting step, with the reformatted symbolic representation of each date in the database having the values  $C_1 C_2$ ,  $Y_1 Y_2$ , in order to facilitate collectively further processing the reformatted symbolic representations of each of the dates.

15 34. (Previously added) A method for representing and utilizing dates stored in at least one date field of a database utilizing symbolic representations of the dates stored in the at least one date field of the database, which are in a format that creates ambiguity between dates in each of a pair of adjacent centuries, comprising the steps of:

converting each of the symbolic representations of dates stored in the at least one date field of the database to a symbolic representation of each of the respective dates that does not create the ambiguity, by windowing the symbolic

representations of each of the respective dates as stored in the at least one date field of the database against a pivot year represented by one of the symbolic representations of the dates as stored in the at least one date field of the database, without the addition of any new data field to the database for 5 purposes of such windowing and converting; and,

running a program collectively on each of the converted symbolic representations of each of the respective dates to sort or otherwise manipulate the dates represented by the converted symbolic representations, separately from the date data symbolic representations contained in the at least one date 10 field of the database.

35. (Previously added) A method of claim 34 further comprising the step of:

opening the database prior to the step of converting.

36. (Previously added) The method of claim 34 further comprising the step of:

15 collectively sorting the converted symbolic representations prior to the step of running the program on the converted symbolic representations.

37. (Previously added) The method of claim 35 further comprising the step of:

20 collectively sorting the converted symbolic representations prior to the step of running the program on the converted symbolic representations.

38. (Previously added) The method of claim 34 further comprising the step of:

collectively manipulating the converted symbolic representations prior to the step of running the program on the converted symbolic representations.

39. (Previously added) The method of claim 35 further comprising the step of:

5           collectively manipulating the converted symbolic representations prior to the step of running the program on the converted symbolic representations.

40. (Previously added) The method of claim 34 further comprising the step of:

                  collectively sorting the converted symbolic representations according to a 10 different data field contained in the database from the at least one date field, prior to the step of running the program on the converted symbolic representations.

41. (Previously added) The method of claim 35 further comprising the step of:

                  collectively sorting the converted symbolic representations according to a 15 different data field contained in the database from the at least one date field, prior to the step of running the program on the converted symbolic representations.

42. (Previously added) The method of claim 34 further comprising the step of:

                  collectively manipulating the converted symbolic representations according 20 to a different data field contained in the database from the at least one date field, prior to the step of running the program on the converted symbolic representations.

43. (Previously added) The method of claim 35 further comprising the step of:

collectively manipulating the converted symbolic representations according to a different data entry field contained in the database from the at least one date field, prior to the step of running the program on the converted symbolic representations.

5

44. (Previously added) The method of claim 34 wherein the program performs an operation which manipulates the data in a data field associated with the at least one date field of the database according to the converted symbolic representation of the date.

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45. (Previously added) The method of claim 35 wherein the program performs an operation which manipulates the data in a data field associated with the at least one date field of the database according to the converted symbolic representation of the date.

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46. (Previously added) The method of claim 34 wherein the step of converting includes converting at least a substantial portion of each of the plurality of symbolic representations of dates in the at least one date field and repeating this step until each of the date data entries in the at least one date field is converted into  
20 the format that does not have the ambiguity.

47. (Previously added) The method of claim 35 wherein the step of converting includes converting at least a substantial portion of each of the plurality of symbolic representations of dates in the at least one date field and repeating this

step until each of the date data entries in the at least one date field is converted into the format that does not have the ambiguity.

48. (Previously added) The method of claim 46 further comprising the steps of:

5       collectively sorting the converted symbolic representations prior to the step of running the program on the converted symbolic representations.

49. (Previously added) The method of claim 47 further comprising the steps of:

      collectively sorting the converted symbolic representations prior to the step 10 of running the program on the converted symbolic representations.

50. (Previously added) The method of claim 46 further comprising the step of:

      collectively manipulating the converted symbolic representations.

15    51. (Previously added) The method of claim 49 further comprising the step of:

      collectively manipulating the converted symbolic representations.

52. (Previously added) The method of claim 46 further comprising the step of:

      collectively sorting the converted symbolic representations according to a 20 different data field in the database than the at least one date field, prior to the step of running the program.

53. (Previously added) The method of claim 47 further comprising the step of:

collectively sorting the converted symbolic representations according to a different data field in the database than the at least one date field, prior to the step of running the program.

5 54. (Previously added) The method of claim 52 further comprising the step of:

collectively manipulating the converted symbolic.

55. (Previously added) The method of claim 53 further comprising the step of:

collectively manipulating the converted symbolic representations.

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56. (Previously added) The method of claim 52 wherein the program performs an operation which manipulates the data in a data field associated with the at least one date field of the database according to the converted symbolic representation of the date.

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57. (Previously added) The method of claim 53 wherein the program performs an operation which manipulates the data in a data field associated with the at least one date field of the database according to the converted symbolic representation of the date.

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58. (Previously added) The method of claim 54 wherein the program performs an operation which manipulates the data in a data field associated with the at least one date field of the database according to the converted symbolic representation of the date.

59. (Previously added) The method of claim 55 wherein the program performs an operation which manipulates the data in a data field associated with the at least one date field of the database according to the converted symbolic representation of the  
5 date.

60. (Previously added) A method for representing and utilizing dates stored in at least one date field of a database utilizing symbolic representations of the dates stored in the at least one date field of the database, which are in a format that  
10 creates ambiguity between dates in each of a pair of adjacent centuries, comprising the steps of:

15       converting each of the symbolic representations of dates stored in the at least one date field of the database to a symbolic representation of each of the respective dates that does not create the ambiguity, by windowing the symbolic representations of each of the respective dates as stored in the at least one date field of the database against a pivot year represented by one of the symbolic representations of the dates as stored in the at least one date field of the database, without modifying any of the symbolic representations of dates in the at least one date field of the database for purposes of such windowing and  
20       converting;

running a program on each of the converted symbolic representations of each of the respective dates to sort or otherwise manipulate data in the database according to the dates represented by the converted symbolic representations,

separately from the date data symbolic representations of dates contained in the at least one date field of the database.

61. (Previously added) A method for representing and utilizing dates stored in at least one date field of a database utilizing symbolic representations of the dates 5 stored in the at least one date field of the database, which are in a format that creates ambiguity between dates in each of a pair of adjacent centuries, comprising the steps of:

converting each of the symbolic representations of dates stored in the at least one date field of the database to a symbolic representation of each of the 10 respective dates that does not create the ambiguity, by windowing the symbolic representations of each of the respective dates as stored in the at least one date field of the database against a pivot year represented by one of the symbolic representations of the dates as stored in the at least one date field of the database, without modifying any of the symbolic representations of dates in the 15 at least date field of the database for purposes of such windowing and converting;

running a program collectively on each of the converted symbolic representations of each of the respective dates to sort or otherwise manipulate the dates represented by the converted symbolic representations, separately 20 from the symbolic representations of dates contained in the at least one date field of the database.

62. (Previously added) A method for representing and utilizing dates stored in at least one date field of a database utilizing symbolic representations of the dates

stored in the at least one date field of the database, which are in a format that creates ambiguity between dates in each of a pair of adjacent centuries, comprising the steps of:

- 5        converting each of the symbolic representations of dates stored in the at least one date field of the database to a symbolic representation of each of the respective dates that does not create the ambiguity, by windowing the symbolic representations of each of the respective dates as stored in the at least one date field of the database against a pivot year represented by one of the symbolic representations of the dates as stored in the at least one date field of the database, without the addition of any new data field to the database for purposes of such windowing and converting;
- 10        storing the converted symbolic representations separate from the at least one date field of the database; and
- 15        running a program on the stored converted symbolic representations to sort or otherwise manipulate data in the database according to the dates represented by the converted symbolic representations, separately from the symbolic representations of dates contained in the at least one date field of the database.

63. (Previously added) A method for representing and utilizing dates stored in at least one date field of a database utilizing symbolic representations of the dates stored in the at least one date field of the database, which are in a format that creates ambiguity between dates in each of a pair of adjacent centuries, comprising the steps of:

converting each of the symbolic representations of dates stored in the at least one date field of the database to a symbolic representation of each of the respective dates that does not create the ambiguity, by windowing the symbolic representations of each of the respective dates as stored in the at least one date field of the database against a pivot year represented by one of the symbolic representations of the dates as stored in the at least one date field of the database, without the addition of any new data field to the database for purposes of such windowing and converting;

storing the converted symbolic representations separate from the at least one date field of the database; and

running a program collectively on the stored converted symbolic representations to sort or otherwise manipulate the dates represented by the converted symbolic representations, separately from the symbolic representations of dates contained in the at least one date field of the database.

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64. (Previously added) A method for representing and utilizing dates stored in at least one date field of a database utilizing symbolic representations of the dates stored in the at least one date field of the database, which are in a format that creates ambiguity between dates in each of a pair of adjacent centuries, comprising

20 the steps of:

converting each of the symbolic representations of dates stored in the at least one date field of the database to a symbolic representation of each of the respective dates that does not create the ambiguity, by windowing the symbolic

representations of each of the respective dates as stored in the at least one date field of the database against a pivot year represented by one of the symbolic representations of the dates as stored in the at least one date field of the database, without modifying any of the symbolic representations of dates in the 5 at least one date field of the database for purposes of such windowing and converting;

storing the converted symbolic representations separate from the at least one date field in the database; and

running a program on the stored converted symbolic representations to sort or 10 otherwise manipulate data in the database according to the dates represented by the converted symbolic representations, separately from the symbolic representations of dates contained in the at least one date field of the database.

65. (Previously added) A method for representing and utilizing dates stored in at least one date field of a database utilizing symbolic representations of the dates 15 stored in the at least one date field of the database, which are in a format that creates ambiguity between dates in each of a pair of adjacent centuries, comprising the steps of:

converting each of the symbolic representations of dates stored in the at least one date field of the database to a symbolic representation of each of the 20 respective dates that does not create the ambiguity, by windowing the symbolic representations of each of the respective dates as stored in the at least one date field of the database against a pivot year represented by one of the symbolic representations of the dates as stored in the at least one date field of the

database, without modifying any of the symbolic representations of dates in the at least one date field of the database for purposes of such windowing and converting;

storing the converted symbolic representations separate from the at least one date field in the database; and

running a program collectively on the stored converted symbolic representations to sort or otherwise manipulate the dates represented by the converted symbolic representations, separately from the symbolic representations of dates contained in the at least one date field of the database;

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66. (Previously added) A method of processing dates in a database, comprising the steps of:

providing a database with dates stored in at least one date field therein according to a format wherein  $M_1 M_2$  is the numerical month designator,  $D_1 D_2$  is the numerical day designator, and  $Y_1 Y_2$  is the numerical year designator; 15 selecting a window with a  $Y_A Y_B$  value for a pivot date of the window,  $Y_A Y_B$  being no later than the earliest  $Y_1 Y_2$  year designator in the database; determining a century designator  $C_1 C_2$  for each date in the database,  $C_1 C_2$  having a first value if  $Y_1 Y_2$  is less than  $Y_A Y_B$  and having a second value if  $Y_1$  20  $Y_2$  is equal to or greater than  $Y_A Y_B$ ;

reformatting the symbolic representation of each symbolic representation of a date in a portion of the at least one date field in the database, without the addition of any new data field to the database, with the reformatted symbolic

representation of each date in the database having the values C<sub>1</sub> C<sub>2</sub>, Y<sub>1</sub> Y<sub>2</sub>, M<sub>1</sub> M<sub>2</sub>, and D<sub>1</sub> D<sub>2</sub>; and

repeating the step of reformatting until each symbolic representation of a date in the at least one date field has been reformatted in order to facilitate  
5 collectively further processing the reformatted symbolic representations of each of the symbolic representations of each of the dates.

67. (Previously added) A method of processing dates in a database, comprising the steps of:

providing a database with dates stored in at least one date field therein  
10 according to a format wherein Y<sub>1</sub> Y<sub>2</sub> is the numerical year designator;  
selecting a window with a Y<sub>A</sub> Y<sub>B</sub> value for a pivot date of the window, Y<sub>A</sub> Y<sub>B</sub> being no later than the earliest Y<sub>1</sub> Y<sub>2</sub> year designator in the database;  
determining a century designator C<sub>1</sub> C<sub>2</sub> for each date in the database, C<sub>1</sub> C<sub>2</sub> having a first value if Y<sub>1</sub> Y<sub>2</sub> is less than Y<sub>A</sub> Y<sub>B</sub> and having a second value if Y<sub>1</sub> Y<sub>2</sub> is equal to or greater than Y<sub>A</sub> Y<sub>B</sub>;  
15 reformatting the symbolic representation of each symbolic representation of a date in a portion of the at least one date field in the database, without the addition of any new data field to the database, with the reformatted symbolic representation of each date in the database having the values C<sub>1</sub> C<sub>2</sub>, Y<sub>1</sub> Y<sub>2</sub>; and  
repeating the step of reformatting until each symbolic representation of a date in the at least one date field has been reformatted in order to facilitate  
20

collectively further processing the reformatted symbolic representations of each of the symbolic representations of each of the dates.

68. (Previously added) A method of processing symbolic representations of dates stored in a database, comprising the steps of:

- 5 providing a database with symbolic representations of dates stored in at least one date field therein according to a format wherein  $Y_1 Y_2$  is the numerical year designator;
- 10 selecting a window with a  $Y_A Y_B$  value for the first decade of the window,  $Y_A$   $Y_B$  being no later than the earliest  $Y_1 Y_2$  year designator in the at least one date field of the database;
- 15 determining a century designator  $C_1 C_2$  for each symbolic representation of a date in the database,  $C_1 C_2$  having a first value if  $Y_1 Y_2$  is less than  $Y_A Y_B$  and having a second value if  $Y_1 Y_2$  is equal to or greater than  $Y_A Y_B$  ; and
- 20 reformatting the symbolic representation of each symbolic representation of a date in at least one date field in the database, without the addition of any new data field to the database, with the reformatted symbolic representation of each date in the database having the values  $C_1 C_2$ ,  $Y_1 Y_2$ , in order to facilitate further processing of the reformatted symbolic representations of each of the symbolic representations of each of the dates, by running a program on the reformatted symbolic representations of each of the dates.

69. (New) A method of processing dates in a database, comprising the steps of:

providing a database with dates stored in at least one date field therein according to a format wherein  $Y_1 Y_2$  is the numerical year designator;

selecting a window with a  $Y_A$   $Y_B$  value for a pivot year of the window,  $Y_A$   $Y_B$  being no later than the earliest  $Y_1$   $Y_2$  year designator in the database;

determining a century designator  $C_1$   $C_2$  for each date in the at least one date field of the database,  $C_1$   $C_2$  having a first value if  $Y_1$   $Y_2$  is less than  $Y_A$   $Y_B$  and

5 having a second value if  $Y_1$   $Y_2$  is equal to or greater than  $Y_A$   $Y_B$ ;

reformatting the symbolic representation of each symbolic representation of a date in the at least one date field in the database, without the addition of any new data field to the database, with the reformatted symbolic representation of each date in the database having the values  $C_1$   $C_2$ ,  $Y_1$   $Y_2$ ;

10 sorting the reformatted symbolic representations of the dates in the form  $C_1$   $C_2$   $Y_1$   $Y_2$ ; and

running a program on the reformatted symbolic representations of each of the dates.

70. (Previously added) A method for representing and utilizing dates stored in at

15 least one date field of a database utilizing symbolic representations of the dates stored in at least one date field of the database, which are in a format that creates ambiguity between dates in each of a pair of adjacent centuries, comprising the steps of

converting each of the symbolic representations of dates stored in the at least

20 one date field of the database to a symbolic representation of each of the respective dates that does not create the ambiguity, by windowing the symbolic representations of each of the respective dates as stored in the at least one date field of the database against a pivot year, with the pivot year being less than or

equal to the earliest date represented by the symbolic representation of dates stored in the at least one date field, without the addition of any new data field to the database, and without modifying any of the symbolic representations of dates in the at least one date field, for purposes of such windowing and

5 converting; and,

running a program on the converted symbolic representations of each of the dates to sort or otherwise manipulate the dates represented by the converted symbolic representations, separately from the date data symbolic representations contained in the at least one date field of the database.

10 71. (Previously added) A method for representing and utilizing dates stored in at least one date field of the database utilizing symbolic representations of the dates stored in the at least one date field of the database, which are in a format that creates ambiguity between dates in each of a pair of adjacent centuries, comprising the steps of

15 converting each of the symbolic representations of dates stored in the at least one date field of the database to a symbolic representation of each of the respective dates that does not create the ambiguity, by windowing the symbolic representations of each of the respective dates as stored in the at least one date field of the database against a pivot year, with the pivot year being less than or

20 equal to the earliest date represented by a symbolic representation of dates stored in the at least one date field, and without the addition of any new data field to the database for purposes of such windowing and converting;

storing each of the converted symbolic representations of each of the dates  
separate from the database; and,  
running a program on the stored converted symbolic representations of each of  
the converted symbolic representations of the dates to sort or otherwise  
5 manipulate the dates represented by the converted symbolic representations,  
separately from the date data symbolic representations contained in the at least  
one date field of the database.

72. (Previously added) A method of processing symbolic representations of dates  
stored in a database, comprising the steps of

- 10 selecting a database with symbolic representations of dates stored therein  
according to a format wherein  $M_1 M_2$  is the numerical month designator,  $D_1 D_2$   
is the numerical day designator, and  $Y_1 Y_2$  is the numerical year designator;
- 15 selecting a 10-decade window with a  $Y_A Y_B$  value for the first decade of the  
window,  $Y_A Y_B$  being no later than the earliest  $Y_1 Y_2$  year designator in the  
database;
- 20 determining a century designator  $C_1 C_2$  for each symbolic representation of a  
date in the database,  $C_1 C_2$  having a first value if  $Y_1 Y_2$  is less than  $Y_A Y_B$  and  
having a second value if  $Y_1 Y_2$  is equal to or greater than  $Y_A Y_B$  ; and,
- 25 reformatting the symbolic representation of each symbolic representation of a  
date in the database with the values  $C_1 C_2$ ,  $Y_1 Y_2$ ,  $M_1 M_2$  , and  $D_1 D_2$  prior to  
collectively further processing information contained within the database  
associated with the respective dates.

73. (Previously added) A method of processing symbolic representations of dates stored in a database, comprising the steps of

providing a database with symbolic representations of dates stored therein according to a format wherein  $Y_1 Y_2$  is the numerical year designator, all of the symbolic representations of dates falling within a 10-decade period of time;

5 selecting a 10-decade window with a  $Y_A Y_B$  value for the first decade of the window,  $Y_A Y_B$  being no later than the earliest  $Y_1 Y_2$  year designator in the database;

determining a century designator  $C_1 C_2$  for each symbolic representation of a date in the database,  $C_1 C_2$  having a first value if  $Y_1 Y_2$  is less than  $Y_A Y_B$  and having a second value if  $Y_1 Y_2$  is equal to or greater than  $Y_A Y_B$  ; and,

10 reformatting the symbolic representation of the date with the values  $C_1 C_2$ ,  $Y_1 Y_2$ , to facilitate further processing of the dates.

74. (Previously added) A method of processing dates in a database, comprising the  
15 steps of

providing a database with symbolic representations of dates stored therein according to a format wherein  $Y_1$   $Y_2$  is the numerical year designator, all of symbolic representations of dates falling within a 10-decade period of time; selecting a 10-decade window with a  $Y_A$   $Y_B$  value for the first decade of the window,  $Y_A$   $Y_B$  being no later than the earliest  $Y_1$   $Y_2$  year designator in the database;

determining a century designator C<sub>1</sub> C<sub>2</sub> for each date in the database, C<sub>1</sub> C<sub>2</sub> having a first value if Y<sub>1</sub> Y<sub>2</sub> is less than Y<sub>A</sub> Y<sub>B</sub> and having a second value if Y<sub>1</sub> Y<sub>2</sub> is equal to or greater than Y<sub>A</sub> Y<sub>B</sub> ;  
reformatting each date in the form C<sub>1</sub> C<sub>2</sub> Y<sub>1</sub> Y<sub>2</sub> to facilitate further processing  
5 of the dates; and,  
sorting the dates in the form C<sub>1</sub> C<sub>2</sub> Y<sub>1</sub> Y<sub>2</sub>.

75. (Previously added) A method of processing symbolic representations of dates stored in a database, comprising the steps of

providing a database with symbolic representations of dates stored therein  
10 according to a format wherein M<sub>1</sub> M<sub>2</sub> is the numerical month designator, D<sub>1</sub> D<sub>2</sub> is the numerical day designator, and Y<sub>1</sub> Y<sub>2</sub> is the numerical year designator;  
selecting a window with a Y<sub>A</sub> Y<sub>B</sub> value for a pivot date of the window, Y<sub>A</sub> Y<sub>B</sub> being no later than the earliest Y<sub>1</sub> Y<sub>2</sub> year designator in the database;  
determining a century designator C<sub>1</sub> C<sub>2</sub> for each symbolic representation of a  
15 date in the database, C<sub>1</sub> C<sub>2</sub> having a first value if Y<sub>1</sub> Y<sub>2</sub> is less than Y<sub>A</sub> Y<sub>B</sub> and having a second value if Y<sub>1</sub> Y<sub>2</sub> is equal to or greater than Y<sub>A</sub> Y<sub>B</sub> ; and  
reformatting the symbolic representation of each symbolic representation of a  
date in the database, without the addition of any new data field to the database,  
with the reformatted symbolic representation of each date in the database  
20 having the values C<sub>1</sub> C<sub>2</sub>, Y<sub>1</sub> Y<sub>2</sub>, M<sub>1</sub> M<sub>2</sub>, and D<sub>1</sub> D<sub>2</sub>, in order to facilitate further processing of the reformatted symbolic representations of each of the symbolic representations of each of the dates.

76. (Previously added) A method of processing dates in a database, comprising the steps of

providing a database with dates stored therein according to a format wherein

M<sub>1</sub> M<sub>2</sub> is the numerical month designator, D<sub>1</sub> D<sub>2</sub> is the numerical day

5 designator, and Y<sub>1</sub> Y<sub>2</sub> is the numerical year designator;

selecting a window with a Y<sub>A</sub> Y<sub>B</sub> value for a pivot date of the window, Y<sub>A</sub> Y<sub>B</sub>

being no later than the earliest Y<sub>1</sub> Y<sub>2</sub> year designator in the database;

determining a century designator C<sub>1</sub> C<sub>2</sub> for each date in the database, C<sub>1</sub> C<sub>2</sub>

having a first value if Y<sub>1</sub> Y<sub>2</sub> is less than Y<sub>A</sub> Y<sub>B</sub> and having a second value if Y<sub>1</sub>

10 Y<sub>2</sub> is equal to or greater than Y<sub>A</sub> Y<sub>B</sub> ;

reformatting the symbolic representation of each symbolic representation of a

date in the database, without the addition of any new data field to the database,

with the reformatted symbolic representation of each date in the database

having the values C<sub>1</sub> C<sub>2</sub>, Y<sub>1</sub> Y<sub>2</sub>, M<sub>1</sub> M<sub>2</sub> , and D<sub>1</sub> D<sub>2</sub>, in order to facilitate further

15 processing of the reformatted symbolic representations of each of the symbolic

representations of each of the dates; and

sorting the dates in the form C<sub>1</sub> C<sub>2</sub> Y<sub>1</sub> Y<sub>2</sub> M<sub>1</sub> M<sub>2</sub> D<sub>1</sub> D<sub>2</sub>.

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**Remarks**

5 The above amendment, pursuant to the requirements of the Decision and 37 C.F.R. § 1.565(d), places the claims added to the Reissue Application and the amendments to the Reissue Application in the files for the above referenced Reexamination Proceedings.

Respectfully submitted,

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